No 649 February 17, 2002

THE FUNDAY TIMES

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We've got a sneak preview of the new Air and Colossus roller coasters
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Dream team
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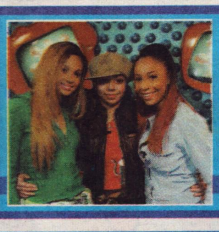

Mis-Teeq ladies
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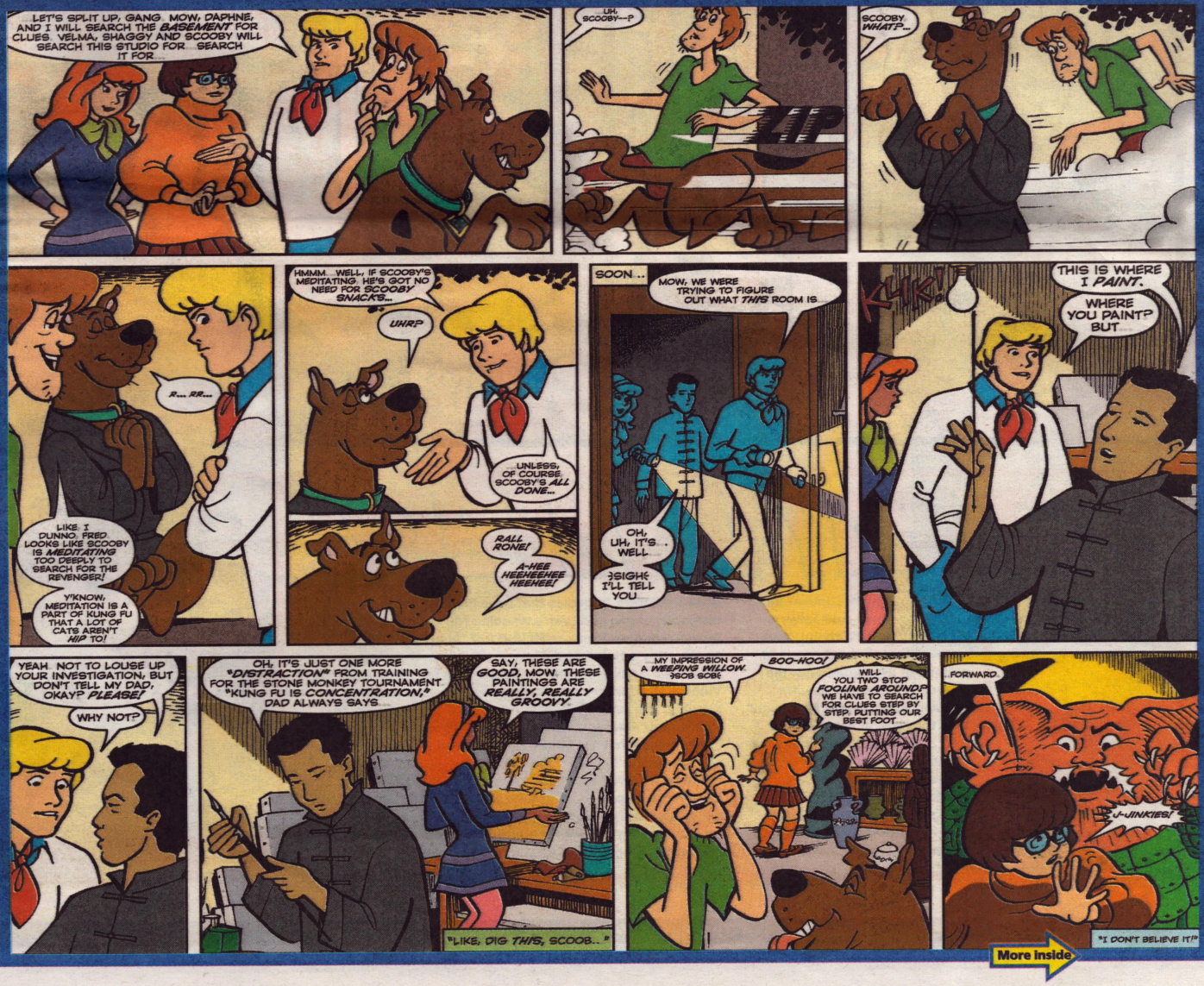
SCOOBY-DOO! in THE REVENGER

The story so far – Life at The House Of Lo Art Gallery has been shattered by the sudden appearance of ... The Revenger

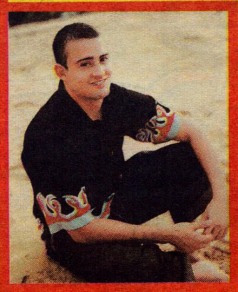


More inside

SCOOBY-DOO AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © HANNA-BARBERA (S02)

BIRTHDAY IN THE BAY!

There's always something exciting happening in Summer Bay, and this week is no exception – because Home And Away is celebrating its 3,000th episode! So, as well as all the drama and excitement associated with the build up to Leah and Vinnie's wedding, you can also get caught up in the tension between Will [left] and Gypsy. The pair look set to ruffle a few feathers when their old feelings for each other resurface – watch out Dani! Plus, there's an emotional farewell in store as Mitch waves goodbye to Summer Bay.



After the recent tragedies that have plagued the Summer Bay residents, Vinnie and Leah's wedding [on Wednesday] should provide some welcome relief. But will things go to plan? Don't be silly, this is Home And Away ... things never go smoothly! Both their families are still set against the wedding, and Vinnie's interfering mum, Stella, is being as much trouble as possible. She even announces on the eve of the big day that Vinnie must wear a kilt instead of trousers.

"Stella thinks that the Poulos family has taken over and it has all become too Greek, so she wants a bit of the Patterson heritage in there," says Ryan Kwanten, who plays Vinnie. But will the happy couple actually tie the knot? "The audience will get what they want," chuckles Ryan. "There are just a few problems along the way. The most important thing is Vinnie and Leah are happy and they won't let anyone ruin that."

Catch Home And Away on Channel 5, every weekday at 6pm

PICTURES: CHANNEL 5

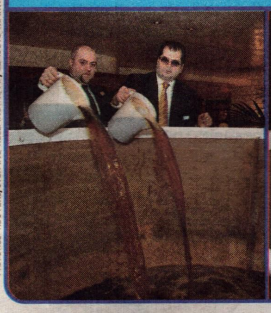
Scooby doesn't seem to be a fan of The Revenger!

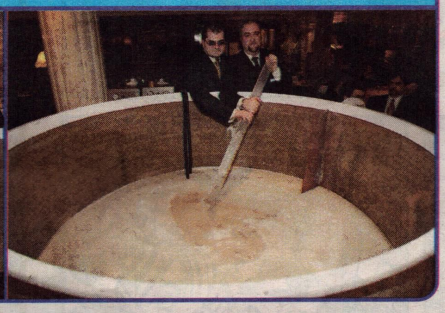
FUNDAY

NEWS

Frothy coffee king

Barman Ettore Diana, from Verona, Italy, has made a 1,500-litre cappuccino, setting what he believes to be a world record. Ettore, who is already in the Guinness World Records with a giant cup of tea and a cocktail, spent one whole day concocting his king of coffee. The previous record belongs to two barmen from Indiana, USA, who made a 1,000-litre cappuccino. Ettore's big brew was made up of 500 litres of espresso coffee and 1,000 litres of frothy milk. The creamy mixture was poured into a 2.25m-high cup with the help of 160 people and a load of espresso machines! "I'm very happy, it was a big challenge," grinned Ettore.

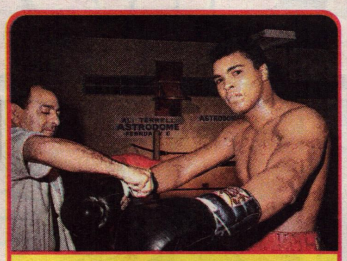




PICTURES: REUTERS/STEFANO BELLANDINI, AP/CLAUDIO MARTINELLI, REUTERS/GUANG NIU

Arrrggghhh!

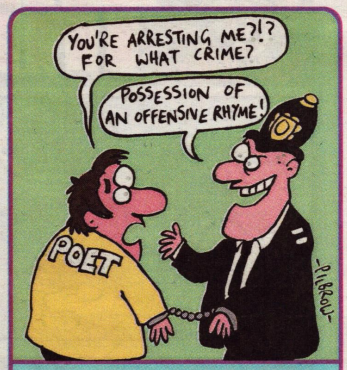
Thrill-seekers are in for a double dose of terror next month as Thorpe Park and Alton Towers reveal their brand new rides. First up is the outrageous £12m Air [see right and middle] at Alton Towers. Daring riders leave the station hanging underneath the track, limbs dangling, and soar up into the air to experience sensational swoops, sky-soaring rolls and plunging dives through underground caverns. If flying like a bird is not enough, think big and head to Thorpe Park for Colossus [below], the world's first 10-looper! The £10m roller coaster sprints along 850m of track and hits speeds of 65kph while 31m in the air. It gives riders a journey of tantalising twists, turns and 360° shockers! If you want to be among the first to sample the new rides, click on www.thorpepark.com or www.altontowers.com



Dads' heroes

The world's most famous boxer, Mohammed Ali [above], won top spot in a poll of dads' childhood heroes. Amazingly, Spider-Man came second, beating Britain's wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill into third position! The Dads' Heroes research report was commissioned by Wagon Wheels to assemble a list of all-time boys' heroes. UK dads, aged 35-45, were asked to name their heroes while they were teenagers. Footballers feature highly in the list with Kevin Keegan, George Best and Pele all there in the top 10. Now it's your turn, log on to www.wagonwheelsheroes.co.uk and you can vote for your heroes of today.

WAGON WHEELS HEROES 2002

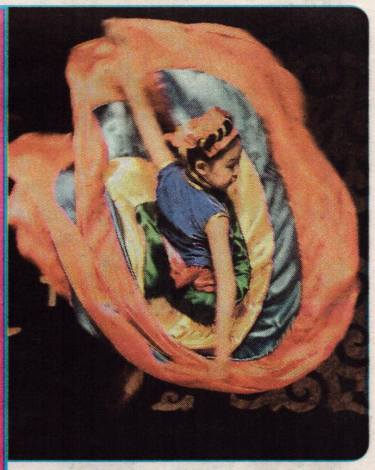


Poetic justice

Wordsmith Ian McMillan has just got a new job – making poems with the police! Ian, who is poet in residence at Barnsley football club, has just started waxing lyrical with the Humberside police. He will be going on patrol with police and recording his experiences in words. Ian, who will sport a yellow jacket marked "observer" while on duty, is hoping to gather enough poetry for a book and a TV programme. "I'm excited," admits Ian. "It's my job to go into places poets don't usually go. I've never met a policeman who's a poet but I'm sure I will." He also plans to experience a mock arrest and even stay the night in a cell.

Happy new year!

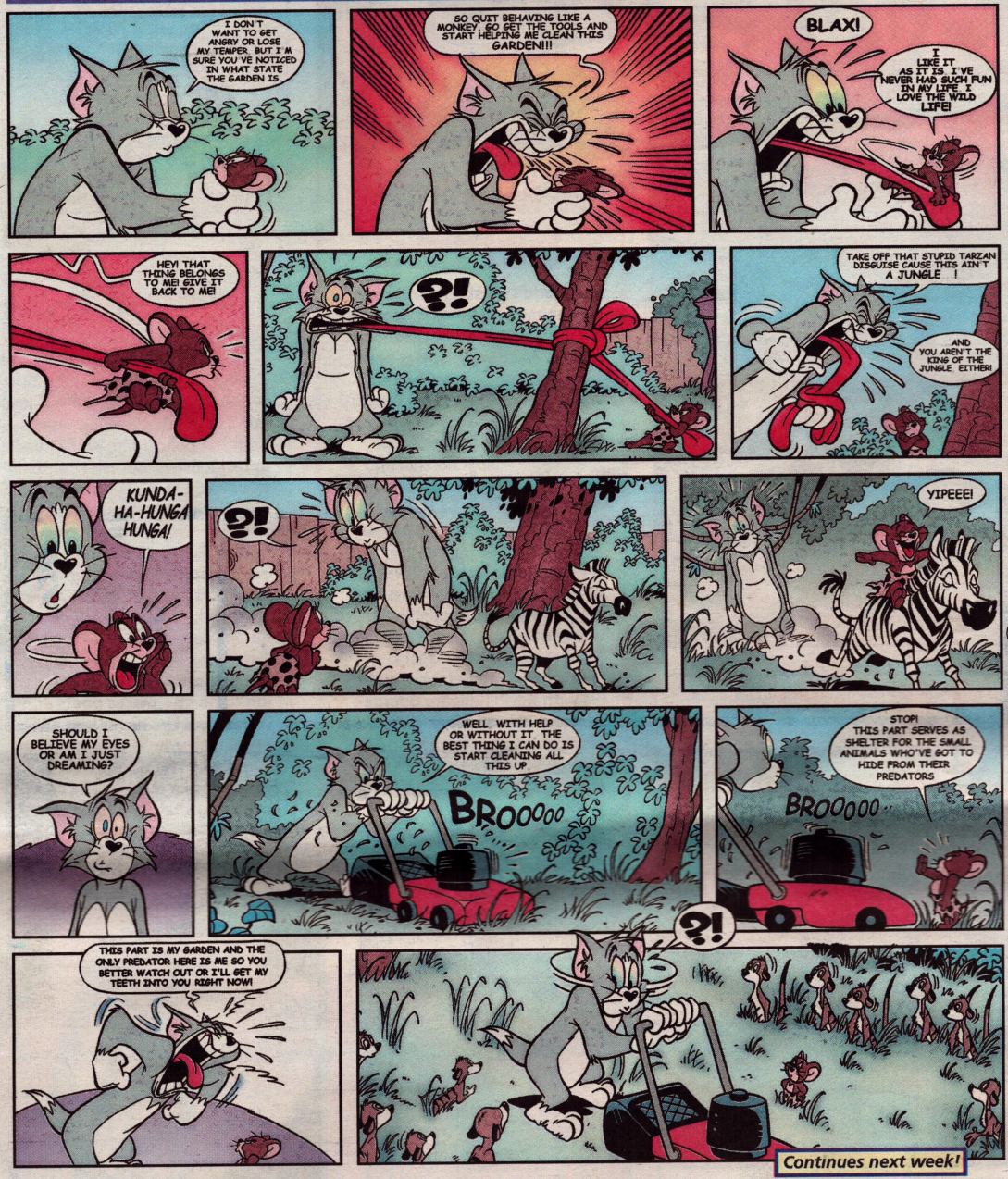
Britain's big cities were awash with Chinese new year celebrations this week – you may have heard the fireworks! Chinese new year celebration starts with the new moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. This year's New Year's Day was on February 12. The Chinese lunar calendar is made up of five cycles of 12 years and each year is named after an animal. The animal ruling the year in which a person is born is believed to have a bearing on their personality, for example, those born in the year of the tiger are said to be brave and adventurous. Check out the list below to see which year you were born in: Rat 1984/1996 Ox 1985/1997 Tiger 1986 Rabbit 1987 Dragon 1988 Snake 1989 Horse 1990 Sheep 1991 Monkey 1992 Rooster 1993 Dog 1994 Boar 1995



Fancy playing for Britain in the Fox Kids Cup? Then today's your last chance. Get along to Asda stores across the country to see if you have the footie skills – to beat the best from 20 countries around the world. If selected, you get to go to the finals at the Olympic Stadium, in Barcelona, at Easter.

TOM AND JERRY — THE JUNGLE

The story so far – The state of the unkempt garden has sent Tom to the brink, he's about to lose his temper with Jerry!



Continues next week!

TOM AND JERRY AND ALL RELATED CHARACTERS AND ELEMENTS ARE TRADEMARKS OF AND © TURNER ENTERTAINMENT CO (S02)

DAGSY DOG

Woof, woof! Got any pet problems? Then get in touch with me at the address below!

I was just wondering why my cat always licks me and my family?
Nikki Samuels, 11, Newbury

Your cat is licking you to help build the bond between it and your family, like the close link that grows when a cat cleans her kittens. This removes the smell of the new-born, places the mother's smell on the kittens for recognition and acts as a form of communication. Adult cats lick each other to keep one another free of parasites and it's also a friendly gesture. The senses of taste and smell are much more acute in a cat and licking you will place its smell on you while allowing it to get used to your "taste". Your cat may also just like the taste!

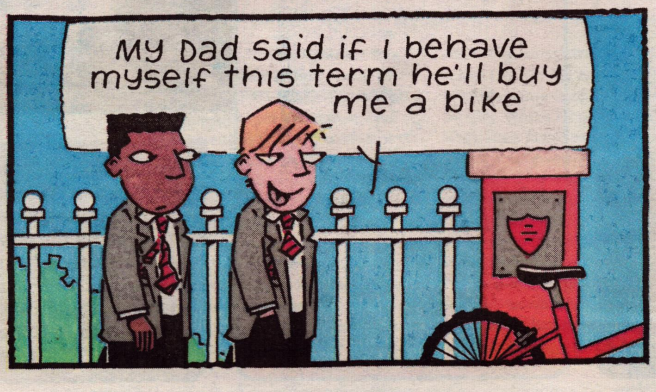
Advice by Blue Cross vet Mark Bossley

If you have a question for me or you want to send in a cool fact, write to:
The Funday Times, Dagsy Dog, PO Box 495, London E98 1ST
You can now e-mail your pet problems to
dagsy.dog@sunday-times.co.uk

The Blue Cross, one of Britain's oldest animal welfare charities, has four animal hospitals, 11 adoption centres, and two equine centres. Last year, the charity found homes for 8,000 animals and treated more than 60,000 pets at its hospitals.

ILLUSTRATIONS: PAUL CEMMICK

Jarvis



©KNIGHT FEATURES

Tom's gardening challenge takes a new turn next week!

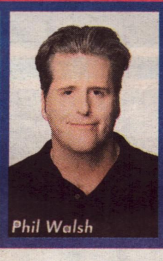
WU-PAH!

Look out, there are some new cartoon crime-fighters in town – it's Teamo Supremo

"Wu-pah! Buh-za! Chi-ka!" may not mean much to you now but these cool catchphrases could soon be heard up and down the country after the new Disney Channel animation, Teamo Supremo, makes its UK debut.

Teamo Supremo comprises three regular kids who are also skilled crime-fighters, sworn to protect the world from the forces of evil ... and still finish their homework! Crandall [aka Captain Crandall] leads the trio which also includes Brenda [aka Rope Girl] and Hector [aka Skate Lad]. And if you like your cartoons full of fun, gags and comic book action – with a touch of Austin Powers-style panache – then Teamo could be your bag, baby!

Joe Horne



Phil Walsh

"We are not trying to tell kids anything with Teamo Supremo," executive producer Phil Walsh tells Funday. "We want them to have the same kind of pure fun we had when we were little. This series is created from all the things I loved as a kid – comic books and action cartoons."

Indeed, Teamo is packed with 1960s-style animation, knockabout fun, topped with a cavalcade of slapstick baddies and a groovy guitar soundtrack.

"The live-action Batman show was the perfect show," explains director Joe Horne.

"We went right back to that Sixties feel," he continues. "It's the recurring theme throughout everything – the sound, the look, the stories."

The buzz about Teamo led to a host of celebrity guest stars offering their vocal talents, including the original Luke Skywalker, Mark Hamill, and renowned British actor, Tim Curry.

Part of the appeal to the top guest stars is that the show's villains are just so much darned fun to play. Look out for the pressie-stealing Birthday Bandit; Baron Blitz; the French villain, Le Poodle; and The Dentist, who drains victims of thoughts, turning them into zombies.

"We try and have goofy villains. Everyone had a great time thinking of them," laughs Phil.

"We came up with the villains from lots of places. There's one called Sloppy Joe. We came up that because Joe Horne's office is a such mess!

Disney's Teamo Supremo

Teamo Supremo starts on February 25, at 3.45pm, on Disney Channel

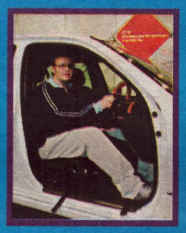
MADE IN JAPAN

Paul Wray discovers the techno wonders on show at the Science Museum's new exhibition

From clever cars to roaming robots, Japan has been at the forefront of technological wonders and electrical gizmos for decades. Japan: Gateway To The Future is the new Science Museum exhibition looking at some of the breakthroughs from the Land of the Rising Sun we can expect to see soon

Smart driving

This Toyota Lexus car has a few extra goodies to assist drivers. It has an integrated traffic system [ITS] which includes a backing guide monitor so that the driver can see exactly how far to reverse on a mini-TV screen on the dashboard. Plus, there are also mini cameras on the left and right wheel rims so that drivers on the move will be able to see any traffic that's lurking in their blind spot.



It's only humanoid

There are two robots at the exhibition: TMSUK4 and PINO. This is TMSUK4, a remote-controlled robot operated via a high-speed mobile phone line. From our picture, you can see the operator controlling the robot's movement using pedals and pads. In future, the aim is for this robot to be used for tasks that are too dangerous for people to complete, such as bomb disposal.

Future phone

Need to see your mates while speaking to them? In the near future, your mobile is likely to be a lightweight colour videophone as well as having mobile internet access to check weather reports, order tickets and check bank accounts – thanks to i-mode and FOMA [Freedom Of Mobile Multimedia Access]. As for ringtones, how about a nifty 90 tunes to choose from?

Cyber cuties

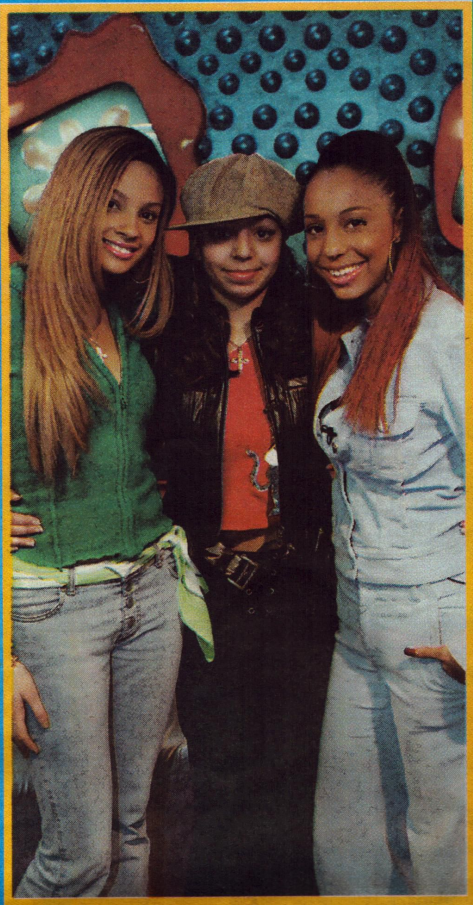
Sony's pet robot Aibo has been improved with the ERS-200 model. As well as obeying 75 voice commands, this techo-dog can be controlled via your computer and, thanks to its onboard camera and microphone, can become a super snooping pooch. There's also the seal-like Paro which reacts to touch. In Japan, Paro is already used as a therapeutic aid for the elderly. But if you're looking for puppy cuteness, then Latte and Macaron [left] are your interactive choice for the future!

Visit Japan: Gateway To The Future at the Science Museum, London, until March 16. For details, call 0870 870 4868 or log on to www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

PICTURES: TONY BUCKINGHAM, ©DISNEY

SURPRISE, S

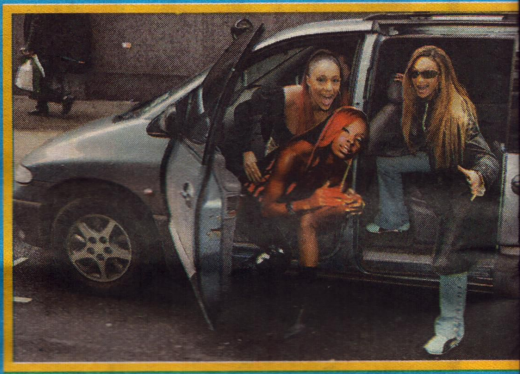
Funday joins the filming of Nickelodeon's Reach For The

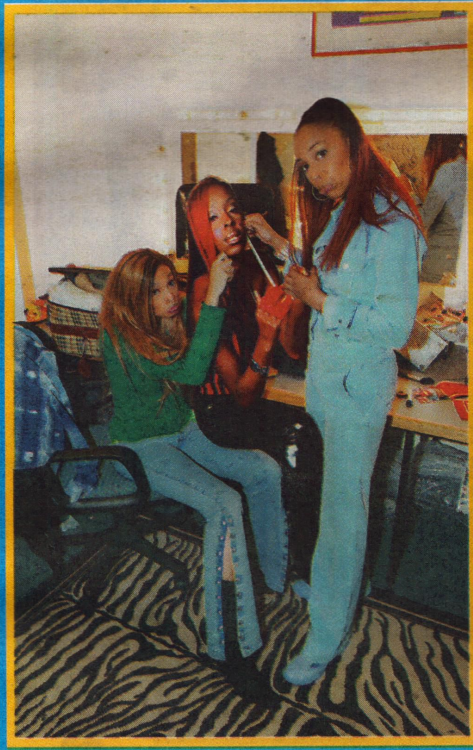


A TV series that will cause a few tears and a whole lot of shocks is Nickelodeon's Reach For The Stars Funday went along to see a dream come true for massive Mis-Teeq fan Danielle Williams, 13, from London, when the R&B group popped along to surprise their devoted fan!

1 "Reach For The Stars gives young people the chance to live the life of their favourite celebrity," says the show's presenter, Steve Wilson. "So, if we have got someone who wants to be in a pop group, such as Mis-Teeq, then I will go with them to singing lessons, dance lessons or lessons on how to rap. They get a complete makeover, as well, with a new outfit from a stylist, a hair stylist and a make-up artist. So it's a big, long process."

2 However, the show's big twist is that the star or group who the youngster idolises will pop up and surprise them! So, while viewer Danielle films with Steve outside the Nickelodeon studios in London, Mis-Teeq are about to arrive. "We have done four episodes so far," says Steve. "There was this 13-year-old lad called Ricky who completely lives the hairdressing lifestyle. He met Charles Worthington, so it's not just about pop stars."





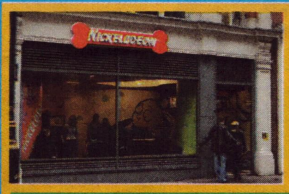
8 The girls spare a thought for their missing Mis-Teeq member, poor Sabrina. "Bless her," cackles Alesha, as they give the cardboard cut-out a bit of TLC. She'll be back, though, by the time the girls start supporting Shaggy on his arena tour.

9 After a little preening in the dressing room, Su-Elise and Alesha find their way to the studio, ready to surprise their fan. While they're getting ready, Funday grabs a word with Danielle, to see what she's been up to. "We went to Tammy and I had a stylist with me," she reveals. "My hair took about two-and-a-half hours with all the extensions that had to be put in!"

10 Tension mounts as Steve and Mis-Teeq prepare for the big moment. For Steve, Danielle's reaction is vital to the success of the show. "It's always the hands over the mouth and nose, and big wide-eyed expression that makes this series worth it. It's all about those moments. It's like 'wow', you are giving them something they will never, ever forget."

SURPRISE!

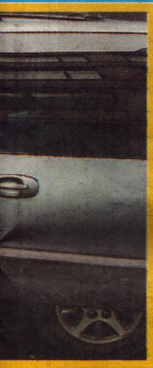
Stars – and one lucky viewer gets to meet Mis-Teeq!



4 Meanwhile, Steve and Danielle finish filming at the front of the building. It's crucial to the whole show that Danielle doesn't find out about the Mis-Teeq mystery! "You really have to be careful. I have had to constantly hide my script, it's in my back pocket at the moment," whispers Steve. "In the beginning I was a bit careless and was leaving it around, which could have been awful!"

6 Talking of mad, it's been a crazy few months for Mis-Teeq recently, with a platinum album, top 10 smashes and a Brit nomination. "It doesn't actually sink in most of the time," giggles Alesha. "It's when you go to other countries and realise that you are known that you think 'wow'. Australia is the other side of the world but our music has brought us there. And in Europe they really love British R&B. They embrace it."

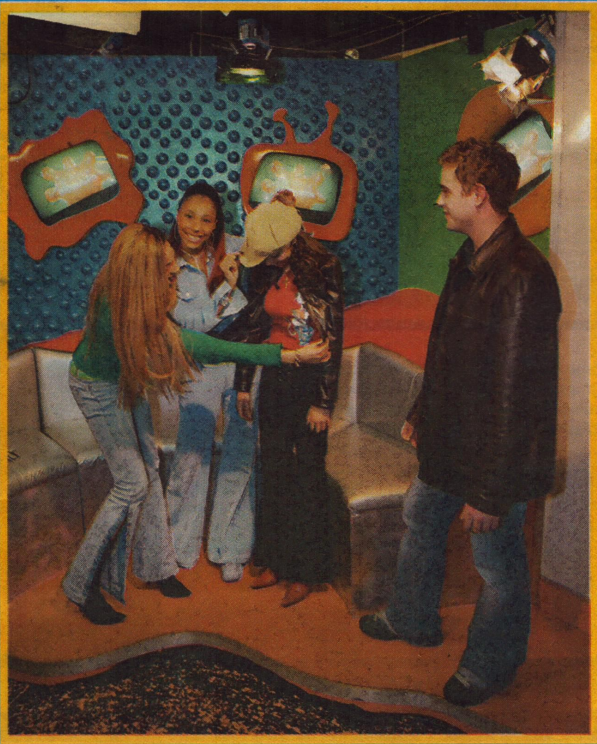
7 "We are really excited about The Brits," says Su-Elise. "We will be performing. It's not like a normal gig, it's a show, so we can afford to go a bit elaborate with pyrotechnics and everything. We have had some ideas but we are not going to let the cat out of the bag."



3 Here are the funky trio arriving at the back door. But, hold on, Sabrina's not looking herself. "Sabrina is very ill at the moment," Su-Elise tells us. "She's had four wisdom teeth taken out and her mouth's still sore and swollen. She's a little bit disappointed but it's important that she rests and gets better." So the girls have brought a Sabrina cut-out to keep the Mis-Teeq vibe alive!

5 Su-Elise and Alesha have their make up touched up before the big surprise in the studio. "Danielle's had dance lessons and she's been learning a rap," raves Su-Elise. "Fans get excited and that makes us excited. When I went to my sister's school, the kids watched me through the window, whispering, 'That's Su-Elise from Mis-Teeq.' It was mad!"

11 Surprise! The cameras are rolling and Danielle walks into the studio to get a big hug from her idols. "It's a dream come true," she gasps. "Look, she's got Sabrina's boots, Su-Elise's hat and my top," laughs Alesha. She's a Mis-Teeq lady!



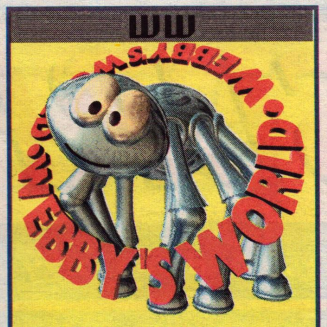
12 The girls clap and give Danielle a hug when they hear her wicked MCing. "I was embarrassed when they played my rap, because, I sound like a baby when I MC," groans Danielle. But the day has been one to remember. "In real life Mis-Teeq are so beautiful. I'm going to worship them forever."

Mis-Teeq's new single, B With Me, is out tomorrow.

Nickelodeon's Reach For The Stars starts on Friday, March 8, at 5pm

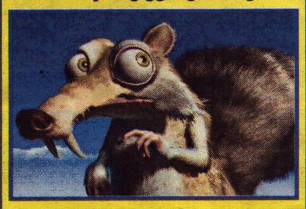
THE FUNDAY TIMES

PICTURES JAMIE HUGHES



www.iceagemovie.com

The next computer-animated movie destined for great things is the ultra cool Ice Age [out March 22]. Funday has seen a sneak preview and it's got the gags and crazy characters to rival Monsters, Inc. But don't take our word for it, have a peek for yourself. Check out the accident-prone Scrat – he'll have you giggling with glee.



PICTURE: TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

www.jippii.co.uk

Ringtones, logos and games for your Nokia and Motorola mobiles can all be found here. Plus, you can sample realistic versions of the chart tunes, movie anthems or TV theme ringtones before you buy them, so you don't buy a duffer! There are Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings tones and even the 2002 Winter Olympic logo – so it's bang up to date.

If you are a webhead and have discovered a great site, or have created one of your own, spin me a mail and tell me all about it on webby@sunday-times.co.uk

FRESH!

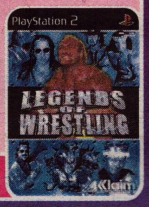
CRICKET 2002 ★★★★★

Cricket isn't the best sport when it comes to making an impact on a console, but if anyone is going to have a good whack at it, then sports game specialist EA Sports will. The attention to detail in the teams, venues and weather are, as expected, excellent and despite the gameplay being leisurely [it is cricket after all!] it keeps you hooked. However, it is extremely hard to master but with persistence and practice, things do look up. Fans will be bowled over.

PLAYSTATION 2

LEGENDS OF WRESTLING ★★★★★

Get ready to rumble, fight fans as Hulk Hogan and his wrestling mates have made a comeback... on the PS2. Not that the return is very spectacular. The finer details of the game, such as the crowd, some of the viewing angles and the wrestlers' movement, are a bit sub-standard. Still, once the bell sounds and the arms fly you can begin to enjoy the game itself. Rather like Hulk Hogan, Legends Of Wrestling seems a bit past it. Not a knockout performer.



PLAYSTATION 2

THE BAD BEGINNING by Lemony Snicket ★★★★★

One of our favourite reads of 2001 was Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events – and now the magnificently murderous series, featuring the poor Baudelaire orphans, arrives on tape. British actor Tim Curry recites the first terrible tale and his distinguished, deep voice adds a certain menace to the dark story. Tim's voice for the dastardly Count Olaf is especially sinister. Ultimately though, it never delivers the nasty and gripping experience of reading the book.

AUDIO BOOK

Looks like Beryl's going to get a pasting!

FUNDAY

BUZZ!

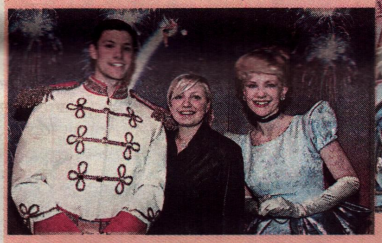
TWICE UPON A TIME

Cinderella II: Dreams Come True is Disney's new feature-length sequel to one of the world's most famous fairytale animations – proving that there is life beyond "happily ever after"! The film's glittering charity premiere took place in London's West End last week, attended by 1,000 children, a host of top celebrities and a real princess – Princess Michael Of Kent. Buzz! mingled with the stars as they posed with Cinderella and Prince Charming.

Ex-Hear'Say singer Kym Marsh arrived with fiancé Jack Ryder, but it was her children who stole the limelight this time

A premiere needs a pop group! Luckily for Cinderella II, the allSTARS rolled up for the fantastic new fairy tale and performed their latest hit, The Land Of Make Believe, before the premiere

Mum-to-be Jordan put in an appearance at the premiere – and gave a fairytale grin as she met Cinderella

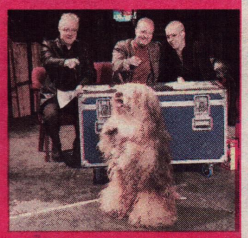


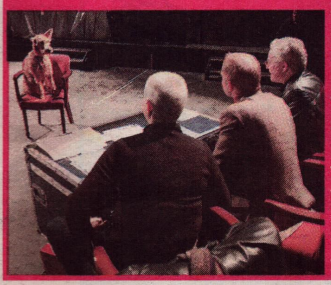
Big Brother 2's Helen Adams joined Prince Charming [not Paul Clarke!] and Cinders for a fairytale moment

Cinderella II: Dreams Come True is out now on video and DVD

CHITTY CHITTY WOOF WOOF

There was a canine casting call in London recently for the new West End production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Hordes of hopeful hounds turned up to the open auditions at the London Palladium, in a bid to bark their way to showbiz fame and fortune. Okay, so perhaps these aren't lead roles, but the 10 magnificent mutts chosen will probably steal the show!

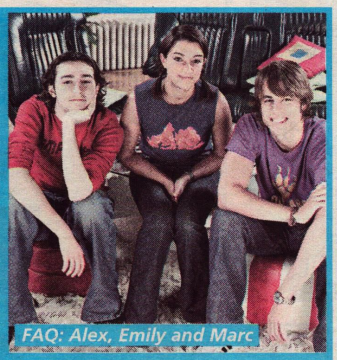




For more information about the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang musical, visit www.chittythemusical.co.uk

KNOW THE FAQS

Emily Newton Dunn is one of the three presenters who hang out in The Warehouse on the set of the new Channel 5 science show, FAQ. Emily, who has presented for MTV and Channel 4, tells Buzz! why she thinks the show rocks!



FAQ: Alex, Emily and Marc

Hi Emily, what's FAQ all about?
It's about science and the way it affects people in everyday life. Call it street science. It covers everything from the technology in your trainers to food colouring.

How did you get involved?
I'm actually a bit of a geek and I'm really interested in technology. My background is in computers, technology and gaming.

Tell us about FAQ's other presenters.
Alex [Zane] and Marc [Crumpton] are really nice, though they can get all laddy on me. When they start talking about footy I find something really girly to bang on about!

What's the best scientific fact you've come across?
This is really boring but I love the fact that your brain makes up 2% of your bodyweight and burns 20% of your energy. So, I'm thinking – use the brain and burn those calories!

Any gross facts?
We do have an Internet loo on the set that analyses your output – but luckily we don't use it!

What's been the highlight of making the show?
It's all been fun. I had a go on a hoverboard – that was cool. And Alex had a go and nearly killed himself, which was very funny!

See FAQ every Sunday at 11.30am on Channel 5

HOT!

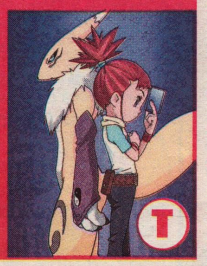
DVD
TV

CRIBS MTV Base ★★★☆☆

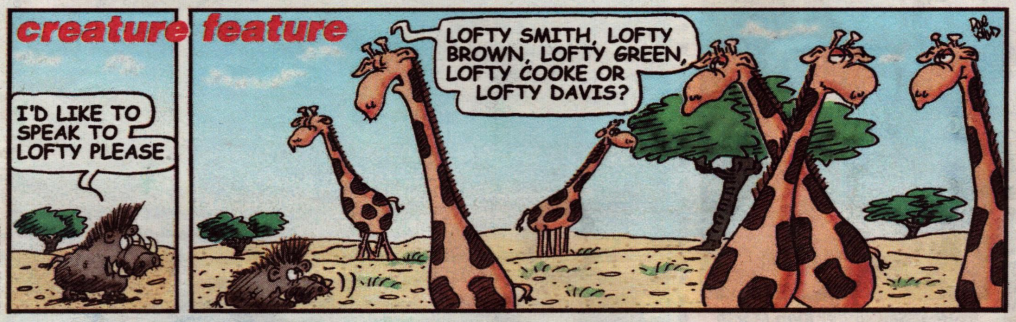
If you want to see how a megastar lives, check out Cribs on MTV Base, tomorrow, at 7pm. In the show, Mariah gives viewers a personal tour of her slightly less-than-humble home. Mariah's a star, and she clearly knows how to live like one too. The diva plays down her lifestyle, but her abode is incredible, reflecting her taste for all things lavish – she has her own walk-in shoe cupboard! But as ever, Mariah's not shy – and she's happy to let the cameras have a complete poke around. If you're naturally nosy – this show's for you!

PLANET OF THE APES [cert 12] ★★★☆☆
It's the DVD extras that make Planet Of The Apes worth a look. The actual film of Leo Davidson [Mark Wahlberg] being transported into the future, where apes rule the Earth, is a tad slow and predictable. But hidden among the 13 hours [yes, 13 hours!] of extras there is some fascinating behind-the-scenes footage of the whole film-making process. All the effort and creativity used to make the apes look, act and run so well does make you wonder why the film wasn't a lot better.

ACTION STATIONS Fox Kids ★★★★★
Fox Kids is preparing for a special week of all-action programming, plus you could win a PlayStation 2 into the bargain. This week the channel is premiering the new battling robots super-series, Medabots, alongside new episodes of its favourite shows, like Digimon [right], Jackie Chan Adventures, Power Rangers Time Force and Shinzo. To be in with a chance of winning a PlayStation 2 [there's one up for grabs every day this week], just listen out for the Action Station siren, that will go off during Medabots, and ring the hotline. Easy!



PICTURES: CHANNEL 5, PA/ FIONA HANSON



ADVANCE FEATURES

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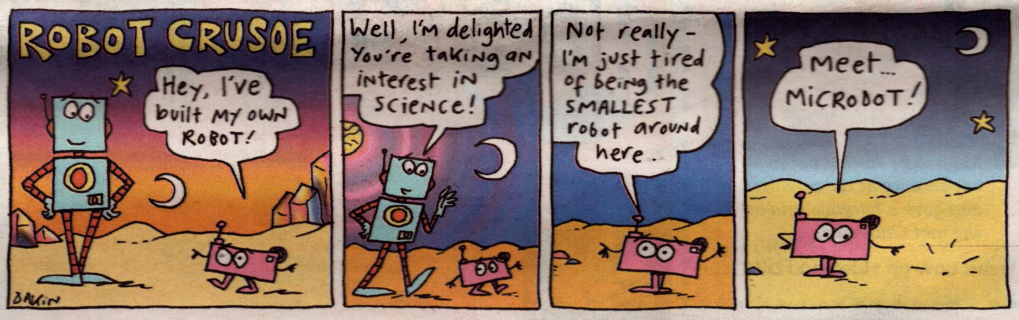


NEXT WEEK

PICTURE: CHANNEL 5

She's an Aussie called Kylie but, no, she can't sing! We say "G'day" to Home And Away star Kylie Watson

Funday chats to the linguistic genius who created the Atlantean language for Disney as well as Star Trek's Vulcan and Klingon

We investigate the chips that taste of chocolate!

f-mail

Send your letters, cartoons, jokes and drawings to: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU7 7GX Send your e-mail to: funday.times@sunday-times.co.uk

EXTREME COLLECTION

Millions of people now participate in one or more extreme sports as their popularity grows and grows. Action Sports Collectables [ASC] makes a collectable series of cards based on the world of action sports, including snowboarding, skateboarding and surfing.

ASC is giving the writer of the star f-mail one pair of Osiris Skate Shoes, an Osiris T-shirt and two packs of Action Sports Cards. The cards include 10 members of the Osiris Skateboarding team.

The other f-mailers will receive a T-shirt and two packs of Action Sports cards.

To view the shoes, go to www.projectskate.com, or to play the cards online, visit www.actionsportscards.com

David Beckham, David Beckham, Scores free-kicks, he always get 'em! Curls the ball into the net, For a finish we'll never forget!
Ilia Cherezov, 12, Cranfield

Sinead O'Hare, 13, Newry

What kind of chocolates do Ancient Egyptians eat?

Pharaoh Roche!

Rebecca King, 9, Bury St Edmunds

Draw a famous celebrity and send it to f-mail!

FUNDAY

WIN IT!

COMPETITION ADDRESS Send answers to all competitions to us at: The Funday Times, PO Box 5073, Leighton Buzzard LU95 1AY. Competition deadline: February 27

You can e-mail your competition answers to: funday.comps@sunday-times.co.uk
Sorry, but only one e-mail per entrant will be accepted.

SURPRISE!

From now on, every time you crack open a Kinder Surprise you're in for two surprises! As well as a toy, you'll find an internet surprise inside the delicious chocolate egg. This magic code opens the door to a whole new online world of Kinder Surprise. Kinder's new games website is at www.magic-kinder.com. After entering their nickname and age, users get to play a surprise game. The computer will register the log-in and give players a new game each time.

Kinder Surprise is giving two winners a Snow iMac computer and three boxes of Kinder Surprise eggs – so that they can access the internet surprise online games.

To enter, tell us what the German word "kinder" means in English.

Mark your entry KINDER and send it with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

Kinder SURPRISE

SPOT ON

It's canine calamities galore in the tail-waggingly funny See Spot Run [cert PG] – out to rent on video, or rent and buy on DVD, from tomorrow.

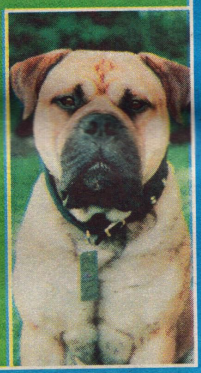
The top pedigree cast includes David Arquette [Ready To Rumble, Never Been Kissed], who plays barking-mad mailman Gordon Smith. Gordon has never met a dog he can't handle but this boast is soon put to a severe doggy test when he babysits his neighbour's young son!

Thanks to Warner Home Video, one lucky reader will win a TV/DVD combination, a copy of See Spot Run on DVD, an iCybie interactive dog and a T-shirt.

Plus, five runners-up each get a copy of the video and a T-shirt.

To enter, tell us the name of David Arquette's famous wife.

Mark your entry MUTT and send it, with your name, age and address, to the competition address above.

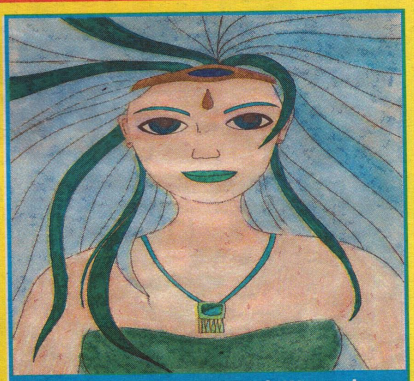


Normal TNL competition rules apply to all Funday Times competitions

Dear f-mail,
My number-one heroine is definitely Victoria Beckham. She has a young child, which she obviously adores, and manages to keep smiling under the constant scrutiny of the public. She's so funny and her book is absolutely gripping. She obviously loves David, is really sympathtic and has had a tough life after being bullied at school. Not to mention that she's an amazing singer. I wish her the best of luck in the future. Does anyone else agree with me?
Danielle Fox, 12, Flintham

Rozalynn Hetherington, 10, Wirral

Dear f-mail,
Last Tuesday, I had my six pricks to see if I need my TB jab next Wednesday. Everybody says the pricks really hurt. Well, they don't, they tickle. But a week after you have had them, the pricks really itch but you're not allowed to scratch them, so it gets really annoying! Thanks for such a good paper, it makes my Sundays fantastic. Hope you keep doing it!
Chris Deacon, Bradford



Jackie Atkinson, 14, High Wycombe

FUNDAY

SPORT

AWAY DAY

Funday Sport reports on a reader's special date with England's football stars

How did you spend your half-term? Lucky Funday winner Paul Anderson, from Reading, will have something to tell his friends when he goes back to school because, during the holidays, he got an invitation to meet the cream of the England football squad. Paul joined the England line-up – including David Beckham and Michael Owen – to launch the new away shirt. Paul, 13, won our competition in issue 646 to help launch the new reversible kit in front of the world's media at a hotel near Heathrow Airport. "I hadn't told any of my friends," says Paul, "so it's going to be a surprise when they see me in the papers."

Paul joined Becks, Michael Owen, David James and Rio Ferdinand on stage, before a barrage of flashing cameras and glaring TV lights.

"We were told where to stand when we got there," Paul told Funday. "The photographers kept shouting to look left or right, I was really nervous."

Not only did Paul get to meet the top footie stars, he also received his own strip, which won't be on sale until March 26. "I managed to get David Beckham, Michael Owen, David James and Rio Ferdinand's autographs and pictures backstage," Paul grinned afterwards. So, is he a Man U fan? "No, I'm actually a Reading fan and occasionally I go and see them play," Paul revealed.

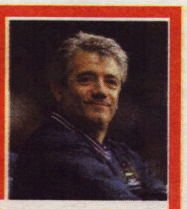
The new kit, to be worn for the first time at England's friendly against Italy on March 27, has the traditional red colour on one side while the reverse is a dark navy blue design. It's also 23% lighter than the previous shirt, which will help England in the heat and humidity of Japan and South Korea.

At the launch, Becks said that he's looking forward to the World Cup finals but added: "We've got to be careful not to get carried away too much because the group stages are going to be very difficult. But, if we can get through, we can do well."

To pre-order the new jersey, log on to www.umbro.com

SPORT NEWS

Funday picks out the best of this week's sporting action



PICTURES PA, AP/ADRIAN WYLD, TONY BUCKINGHAM

Today FA Cup fifth round, Newcastle United v Manchester City

This tie has all the ingredients of a classic FA Cup match, with both sides full of confidence and relying on their attacking flair rather than defensive strength to win games. The added spice is that former Newcastle hero Kevin Keegan returns to St James' Park as Manchester City manager. Live from 6.50pm on BBC1.

Wednesday Women's skeleton, Winter Olympics

Britain's best medal hope, Alex Coomber, is going for gold in the women's skeleton at the Salt Lake games. She deserves a medal for just wanting to hurtle down an icy track, wearing a skin-tight suit, on little more than a tea tray. Go for it, Alex! Live on Olympic Grandstand, from 4pm, on BBC2.

BARCA BREAK

The Fox Kids Cup is a six-a-side football tournament that has brought together footy playing boys and girls from 20 countries, including the UK, USA, France and Argentina.

After a global search, the tournament's best will meet at the finals at the Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, over the Easter weekend.

Fox Kids is offering one winner and their family [two adults, two children] a weekend trip [Thursday, March 28, returning on Tuesday, April 2] to Barcelona to watch the final of the Fox Kids Cup. Flights and accommodation are included.

Plus, 10 runners-up receive a Fox Kids goodie bag.

To enter, tell us the name of the famous stadium where Barcelona play.

Mark your entry BARCELONA and send it, with your name, age and address to the competition address on page 11.

For more information on the Fox Kids Cup, click on www.foxkids.co.uk

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World Cup fever starts in Funday!